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RULES

FOR THE BETTER GOVERNMENT OF THE

CORPORATION

OF THE

CHARITY

for the relief of

Poor Clergymen,

AND THEIR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN,

In Essex,

and that Part of *Hertfordshire* which is within the DIOCESE OF LONDON;

Established by a General Court, held at Chelmsford, 17th July, 1751.

WITH THE

SEVERAL ALTERATIONS MADE SINCE,

Established and confirmed by a Special Court of Audit, held at Chelmsford, 3d October, 1797.

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BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA·

RULES, &c.

AGREED,

THAT, as in each deanry throughout the county of Eſſex, ſo in the deanry of Braughing, and in the whole archdeaconry of St. Alban's likewiſe, two deputies, at leaſt, called ſtewards, ſhall be elected yearly, to collect all contributions, and to receive all donations whatſoever, within their reſpective diſtricts, and to pay the ſame to the ſeveral treaſurers at their reſpective general courts, which ſhall be yearly holden for that and other purpoſes relating to this charity. And moreover, they ſhall give in a fair liſt of all the pariſhes within their peculiar deanries, alphabetically written, together with the names and ſurnames of the incumbents, and their proper diſtinctions of rector, vicar, or curate perpetual: alſo of all ſuch others, whether clergy or laity (except private benefactors) as ſhall, for the time being, be annual contributors, together with their ſeveral and reſpective titles and additions, as well as ſums contributed, under the name of each deanry, and ſteward, wherein and by whom the ſums ſhall be collected and paid, to the end that they may be all entered in proper books, peculiar to each archdeaconry, and in one and the ſame regular, fair, and uniform manner, throughout the

county of Eſſex, the deanry of Braughing, and archdeaconry of St. Alban's aforeſaid, that the treaſurers may be charged with more certainty, and their accounts ſettled with more eaſe, perſpicuity, and ſatisfaction. And further that, at the ſame time, every ſteward deliver in the name or names of any donor or donors, with the places of their abode, their titles or additions (except ſuch benefactors as deſire to be unknown), as well as the ſum reſpectively given, whether by will or otherwiſe, immediately below the receipt for contributions, in order to their being entered accordingly, as is hereafter directed.

2. That one of the ſtewards of each deanry ſhall, with the money and liſt, carry or ſend to the treaſurer of that reſpective general court, whereunto he belongs, a duplicate of every ſuch liſt.

3. That when the receipts and diſburſements made at each general court, ſhall, with any other tranſactions relating to this charity, be properly entered, according to the method propoſed, either in a book peculiar to each diviſion in particular, or in one appropriated to each archdeaconry in general; then a duplicate of every ſuch book ſhall be lodged in the regiſter's office at Chelmsford, for public inſpection without fee or reward.

4. That, in order to examine and paſs the accounts of all the treaſurers, one court of audit ſhall be annually held at the town of Chelmsford, in the county of Eſſex, upon the ſecond Tueſday in Auguſt; and another alſo (if it ſhall be found expedient for auditing the accounts for the deanry of Braughing, and archdeaconry of St. Alban's only) ſhall be held at the town of Ware, in the county of Hertford, upon the firſt Thurſday in July, ſo that all the accounts there audited may be tranſmitted to the general court of audit at Chelmsford. And that each court of

audit ſhall be conſtituted of all ſuch governors as will be pleaſed to attend, beſides the Vice-Preſidents, treaſurers, and auditors.

5. That the treaſurer for each archdeaconry, or diviſion of an archdeaconry, wherein any general court is required or allowed to be held, ſhall give in a particular and exact account, every year, at his reſpective court of audit, of what he has received and what he has diſburſed, that year, under the head of each deanry; which, with the amount of the contribution in each archdeaconry, or diviſion, as well as the amount of the whole contributions throughout he counties of Eſſex and Hertford, within the dioceſe of London, together with the particulars of the application, ſhall be all fairly entered in a diſtinct and ſeparate book, by one of the treaſurers, or by ſome other perſon that ſhall be appointed, in order to be ſeen at one view: and that a copy of this book alſo ſhall be lodged in the regiſter's office at Chelmsford, for public inſpection. Moreover, that in this book ſhall be entered all legacies and donations, as they ſhall ariſe, and whatever relates to ſuch legacies and donations. And that from this book a tranſcript ſhall be made of legacies and donations, together with the aggregate ſum of the annual contributions, as alſo of the particular diſtribution of them, and printed yearly; together with a liſt of all the officers of the corporation, ſpecifying the places of abode of the ſeveral treaſurers and ſtewards, alſo the reſpective deanry of each ſteward, in order to be diſtributed amongſt the governors, contributors, and donors.

6. That if (for the convenience of the deanry of Braughing and archdeaconry of St. Alban's) a court of audit be held at Ware, as aforeſaid, ſome perſon ſhall be annually appointed by the governors there and then preſent,

to attend the very nex court of audit, which ſhall be held at Chelmsford, in order to lay before that court their accounts and tranſactions, and to pay (as is hereafter directed) any overplus that may ariſe from the contributions and donations in the ſaid deanry and archdeaconry, after all their objects are relieved, and their other neceſſary expences defrayed; or, in caſe of a deficiency, to apply for and receive a ſufficient ſupply.

7. And that none of the contributions, donations, and legacies, which now are, or hereafter ſhall be, contributed, given, or bequeathed, to this charity, may be diverted from the original deſign and intent of the governors of it in general, or of thoſe donors and benefactors in particular, who ſhall think fit to direct the application of their own donations and benefactions; it is agreed and directed, that no expences be defrayed out of them, except what ſhall ariſe from purchaſe of books, and carriage of the ſame from place to place, to attend general courts, courts of audit, or the regiſter's office; except alſo, what ſhall ariſe from printing, as above-mentioned; and the charge of carriage, and diſtributing the copies amongſt the officers, together with ſuch writing as ſhall be thought neceſſary for depoſiting the ſtock with the greater ſecurity; except alſo, for proper cheſts with locks and keys, for keeping the books and papers; except alſo, ſuch reaſonable gratuities and fees as the governors may think proper to be allowed to any perſon or perſons concerned in preparing or tranſcribing the accounts; who, by his or their office in the corporation, ſhall not be required or expected to do it gratis: and therefore, every perſon who is in any manner concerned, either as a Vice-Preſident, or treaſurer, or auditor, or ſteward, or governor, in tranſacting the buſineſs relating to this charity, ſhall bear his own charges at all general courts and courts of audit.

8. That no clergyman ſhall have any benefit from this charity, except at the general court of audit, on a petition recommended by the majority of governors at the general court. But if he has one or more children, they may have the benefit of it, in the manner hereafter mentioned.

9. That no clergyman ſhall have any benefit from it himſelf, if he has an income either ſpiritual or temporal, or both, amounting to the value of 100l. per annum, unleſs in the caſe of two months expenſive illneſs: only, if he has three or more children, they may have the benefit of it, in the manner hereafter mentioned.

10. That no clergyman who officiates as curate in any living in the county of Eſſex, deanry of Braughing, and archdeaconry of St. Alban's aforeſaid, ſhall have any benefit from this charity, unleſs he has officiated in ſome living in that county, deanry, or archdeaconry, for the ſpace of two years, except in the caſe of two months expenſive illneſs; or unleſs he has one or more children; in either of which caſes he may be relieved, in the manner hereafter mentioned.

11. That no widows or children of clergymen ſhall have any benefit from this charity, but the widows and children of ſuch clergymen as died actually poſſeſſed of ſome eccleſiaſtical benefice or curacy, within the county of Eſſex, or the deanry of Braughing, or the archdeaconry of St. Alban's in the county of Hertford, within the dioceſe of London.

12. That no widow ſhall have any benefit from this charity, any longer than ſhe continues a widow, and a member of the church of England, of good life and ſober converſation.

13. That no widow ſhall have any benefit from it, if ſhe has an income amounting to 20l. per annum; or it ſhall

appear, that her huſband's circumſtances would have enabled him to have left her 20l. per annum: and that every widow or child of a clergyman petitioning for relief, ſhall ſtate in their petitions, not only what property they poſſeſs, but alſo what aſſiſtance they have received in the former year, or expect to receive in the current year, from eſtabliſhments of the ſame nature as this corporation.

14. That no children, either during their fathers' lives, or afterwards, ſhall have any benefit from this charity, if they are otherwiſe ſufficiently provided for.

15. No child or orphan above fourteen, or under ſixty years of age, ſhall be relieved with an annual penſion, except ſtudents at one of our univerſities; and ſuch as are diſabled by infirmity from getting a livelihood.

16. That a clergyman not under the diſqualifications above-mentioned, ſhall be allowed a ſum not exceeding 6l. per annum: but in caſe he labours under an expenſive illneſs, for the ſpace of two months, it is ordered, that he ſhall be allowed the ſum of 6l. more: and in caſe he is under a total incapacity of officiating in his function by old age, or of officiating in it for the ſpace of a year, either by ſickneſs or diſtraction, that he ſhall be allowed, in the whole, a ſum not exceeding 20l. per annum, as long as he continues in that ſtate, including the 12l. above-mentioned. And it is further agreed, that if he ſhall happen to die ſoon after the general court that has been held for his diviſion, and leave his widow or children in great diſtreſs, five or more governors, whereof a Vice-Preſident ſhall always be one, are empowered to hold an extraordinary general court, to receive the petition of ſuch diſtreſſed widow or children, and to grant ſuch relief as ſhall be thought neceſſary, not exceeding 10l.

17. That for each child, not diſqualified as above, he ſhall be allowed a ſum not exceeding 4l. per annum.

18. That a clergyman's widow under ſixty years of age, and not diſqualified as above, may be allowed 10l. per annum; and one that is above ſixty, or that labours under two months expenſive illneſs, or is diſabled by infirmity, or has one or more children to maintain, may be allowed, in the whole, from 12l. to 16l. according to the exigency of the caſe.

19. That a clergyman's ſon, ſtudent in one of our univerſities, who having reſided three terms in Cambridge, or four in Oxford, is unable to ſupport himſelf there without the aſſiſtance of this corporation, preſenting a petition, ſigned by two governors, with a teſtimonial from the maſter and dean of his college, certifying the ſobriety of his life and converſation, his proficiency in learning, and ſufficient reſidence in college, may have 10l. 10s. a year for four years, unleſs he has ſome preferment or ſtipend from the college, exceeding the value of 25l. per annum.

20. That a clergyman's orphan, under fourteen years of age, and not diſqualified as above, may be allowed from 6l. to 10l. per annum; and one that is above ſixty, or is incapable of getting a livelihood at any age above fourteen years, may be allowed from 10l. to 14l. according to the exigency of the caſe.

21. That no ſum or ſums whatſoever ſhall be granted, but at a general court, in each archdeaconry or diviſion, by conſent of the major part of the governors then preſent: only, if there be a deficiency in the contributions at any of the general courts for the relief of objects, ſuch as ſhall be allowed to be ſufficiently qualified, by any of the ſaid general courts, and are referred by them, may be relieved, either by any ſubſequent general court in the ſame archdeaconry, or at the court of audit, by the conſent of the major part preſent, out of any overplus that ſhall accrue

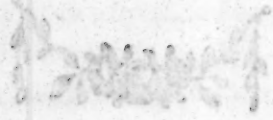
from the contributions, in any of the other archdeaconries or diviſions: and in like manner alſo may all ſuch perſons be relieved, concerning whoſe petitions, circumſtances, characters, or ages, any objections or difficulties may have ariſen, in any general court, provided the ſame ſhall be expreſsly referred by the major part preſent, to the conſideration of any ſubſequent general court, or court of audit: and provided ſuch objections or difficulties ſhall be there removed, to the ſatisfaction of the major part preſent.

22. That no ſum or ſums whatſoever ſhall be granted at either of the ſaid general courts, but upon a petition in writing, according to the printed form preſcribed, and ſigned by the petitioner, or, if incapacitated, by ſome perſon in his or her behalf; and in either caſe to be atteſted by the miniſter of the pariſh wherein the petitioner lives, and by two or more of the governors; ſignifying at the ſame time, that the perſon ſigning the petition (if not the object) is fit to be truſted with the relief that ſhall be granted. And in caſe the petitioner is a ſtudent in either of the two univerſities, his petition muſt be atteſted by the governor, or cenſor, or deans, of the college to which he belongs. And in all caſes that require it, an extract, ſetting forth the petitioner's age, taken from the pariſh regiſter, and duly atteſted, muſt be produced: and alſo, that for the future this clauſe ſhall be added to every old petition, immediately before ſigning the petitioner's name, viz. And begs leave at the ſame time humbly to acknowledge the favour of pounds, which received from you laſt year, by the hands of

23. That the capital ſtock of this corporation ſhall not be enlarged, except by legacies and particular donations; and that the ſurplus of the annual contributions, and of the intereſt of the capital ſtock remaining in the treaſurer's

hands, after his accounts are ſettled, ſhall be diſtributed by the court of audit to the moſt diſtreſſed objects.

24. That if there be more objects, properly qualified and recommended, in any archdeaconry, than can be relieved out of the contribution raiſed in that archdeaconry, or in that diviſion of an archdeaconry, the overplus of the annual contributions of the other archdeaconries, or of the other diviſion of that archdeaconry, ſhall be applied to this purpoſe.

25. That the common ſeal ſhall never be ſet to any inſtrument, but by order of a general court, in preſence of two of the governors, and be atteſted by the ſame.

26. That every one who now does, or ſhall hereafter, ſubſcribe or contribute 5s. a year, is, and ſhall be a governor.